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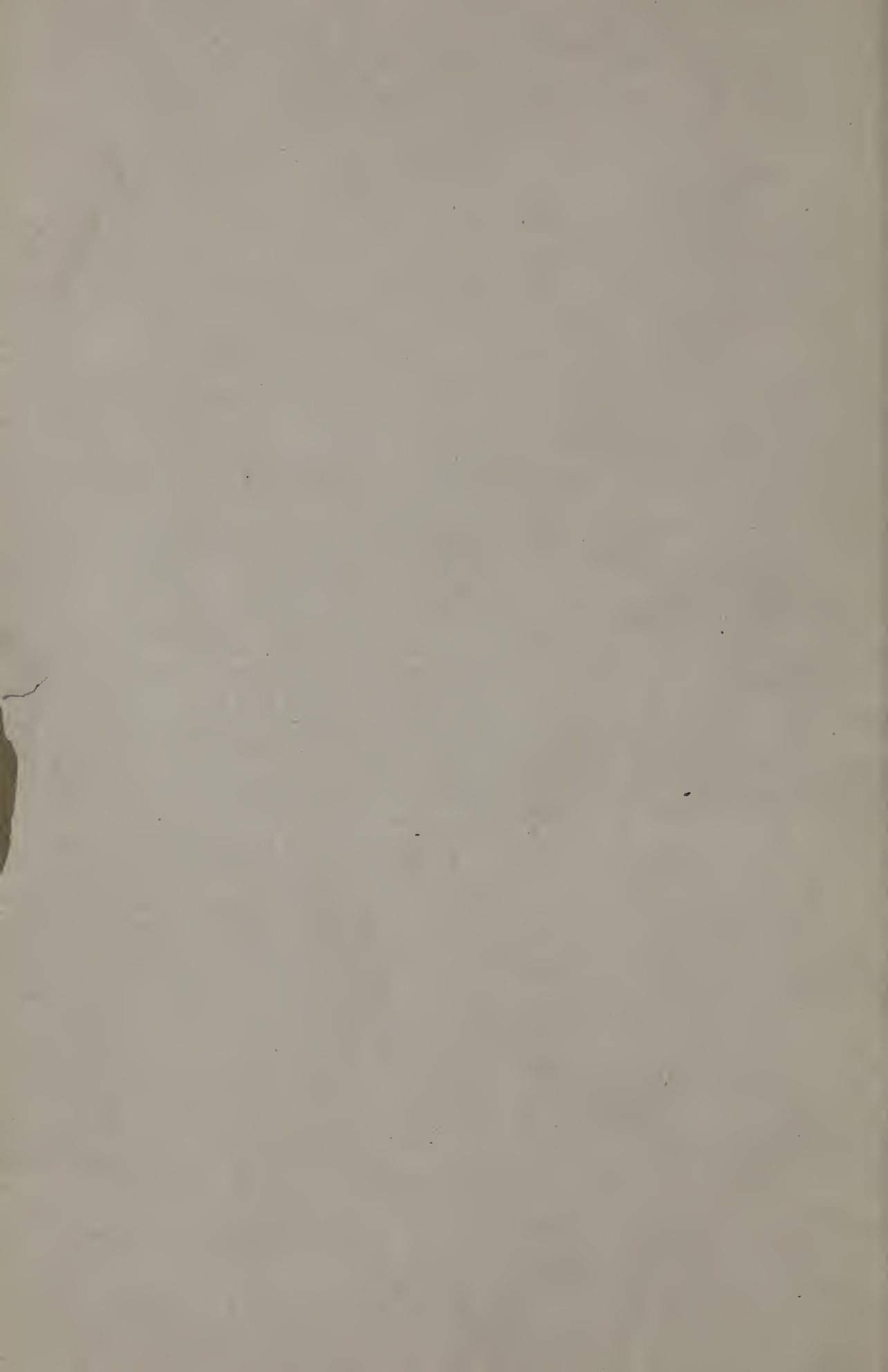
OF THE

Early Generations

OF THE

(WINTHROP FAMILY)

IN IRELAND.



SOME ACCOUNT
OF THE
EARLY GENERATIONS
OF THE
WINTHROP FAMILY
IN IRELAND.

[WINTHROP, ROBERT CHARLES]

PRIVATELY PRINTED
FOR CORRECTION AND ADDITION.

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PREFACE.

MANY of the genealogical notices of the Winthrops, which from time to time have found their way into print, contain errors and discrepancies; and the same may be said of much of the genealogical material in possession of different branches of the family.

In 1874 the undersigned privately printed a few copies of an unfinished Winthrop pedigree, in order to facilitate certain enquiries then about to be made in England. At that time comparatively little was known about the three Winthrops who settled in Ireland early in the reign of James I.; and as a number of facts have since been ascertained concerning them, this little account has now been prepared for the convenience of those interested in the subject, and with a view to further researches.

R. C. WINTHROP, JUN^R.

37½ BEACON ST., BOSTON, U. S.,
May, 1883.



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THE WINTHROP FAMILY IN IRELAND.

CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY OF THE FAMILY BRIEFLY STATED, WITH A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE THREE WINTHROPS WHO SETTLED IN IRELAND.

THE family of WINTHORPE, or WINTHROP, of Groton Manor, co. Suffolk, England, — afterwards of Boston and New London in New England, — sprang, by tradition, from the ancient village of Winthorpe, near Newark, in Nottinghamshire. The earliest ascertained ancestor of the family, however, is one

ADAM WINTHROP, known to have been living at Lavenham, in Suffolk, in 1498, who had by his wife, Jane Burton, an only son,

ADAM WINTHROP, Esq., of the parish of St. Michael's, Cornhill, and Groton Manor, co. Suffolk, Master of the Clothworkers Company of London. He was born at Lavenham, 9 Oct., 1498, and died at Groton, 9 Nov., 1562, having married, first, 16 Nov., 1527, Alice, daughter of — Henny, gent., and, second, 20 July, 1534, Agnes, daughter of Robert Sharpe of Islington, gent. (The latter survived him, and remarried William Mildmay of Springfield, co. Essex.) By his first marriage he had an only son, WILLIAM, of whom hereafter. By his second marriage he

had (with four daughters : Alice, wife of Sir Thomas Mildmay ; Bridget, wife of Roger Alabaster of Hadleigh ; Mary, wife of William Celie of London, and afterwards of Abraham Veysie of Ipswich ; and Susan, wife of Dr. John Cotta) two sons, JOHN, of whom hereafter, and

ADAM, third Winthrop of that name, a lawyer and county magistrate, first of Edwardston, co. Suffolk, subsequently of Groton Manor, ancestor of the American family of Winthrop, and who need not be further described here.

WILLIAM WINTHROP, aforesaid, succeeded to the London property of his father, was an active supporter of the Reformed Faith, and the friend and correspondent of Fox, the Martyrologist. He died in London, March 2, 1581, aged 51, having married Elizabeth, daughter of — Norwoode of Kent, by whom he had (with two daughters : Elizabeth, wife of Humphrey Munnynge, Rector of Brettenham, co. Suffolk ; and Sarah, wife of John Frost), two sons, JOSHUA and ADAM, of whom hereafter.

Three of the above-mentioned Winthrops became interested in land-speculations in the South of Ireland, and took up their residence in that country between 1595 and 1610. They were :

I. JOHN WINTHROP, second son of the second Adam Winthrop, born 20 Jan., 1546, succeeded, in 1562, to the larger part of his father's Suffolk estate, including Groton Manor, where he chiefly resided many years, until, about 1594, he and his brother-in-law Alabaster were led to invest in Irish lands. A little later he joined Sir John Skynner, Sir Thomas Crooke and others in promoting a plantation in the barony of Carbery,

co. Cork, and he eventually acquired a considerable estate in the neighborhood of Aghadowne, co. Cork ; gradually disposing of his Suffolk property, much of which passed into the possession of his brother Adam. The diary of the latter contains frequent references to his brother John's absences in Ireland, and occasional visits to London and Groton, between the years 1596 and 1609, after which he is not known to have been in England. He died at Aghadowne, July 26, 1613, aged 67, leaving a will dated March 27 of the same year. He had married, first, Feb. 6, 1566, Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Rysby, Esq., of Thorpe Morieux, co. Suffolk, with whom he had ceased to live before 1600, and from whom he subsequently obtained a legal separation, covenanting to pay her an allowance for which his brother Adam became surety. She died without issue, at a very advanced age, in Southwark, in 1637. As soon as he was legally able (probably not before 1609) John married, secondly, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Powlden of Rathgogan, co. Cork, by whom he had two daughters, Elizabeth (who married Peregrine Banister, Esq.) and Anne (who married Henry Hoskins, gent.), and a son, JOHN WINTHROP the younger, of Aghadowne, who died early in 1634, it is believed unmarried. Only the two daughters are mentioned in the will ; the son may not have been born until after his father's death, but of his existence there can be no doubt, as on the 20th Feb., 1634, an administration of his intestate estate was granted to his step-father, Thomas Nott of Aghadowne, who had married his father's widow. This Thomas Nott was one of the promoters of the Carbery Plantation, and son of Anthony Nott, Esq., of Surrey ; he died at Bruff, co. Limerick, Jan. 8, 1635, leaving by his wife, Elizabeth Powlden, widow of John Winthrop, four daughters, of

whom the eldest married Henry Becher of Aghadowne, of the family of the present Sir Henry Wrixon-Becher, bart.

It is doubtful whether much was known in England about the second marriage of John Winthrop of Aghadowne, and it is clear that his relatives in Suffolk continued to maintain friendly intercourse with his first wife. So far as can be gleaned from the fragmentary diary of his brother Adam, the relations between the two brothers were intimate, at least until 1609, — but, in 1613, when Adam had occasion to chronicle John's death, he speaks of him as "*qui mihi neque sibi utilis vitâ fuit, qui mihi frater durus tempore mortis erat.*" It is probable that John's life was not as irreproachable as that of Adam is known to have been; but it may not unreasonably be conjectured that the latter was a good deal annoyed that John should have taken a young wife in his old age, thereby cutting off Adam's only son from an inheritance to which he had been so long heir-presumptive.

John's will bequeaths his "soul to Almighty God, hoping verily to be saved by the death and passion of his Son Jesus Christ," directs the payment of certain legacies to the poor of Aghadowne and to his nephew Adam Winthrop of Bandon (of whom hereafter), provides portions for his two above-named daughters "provided they marry to their mother's liking," and constitutes residuary legatee and sole Executrix "my nowe wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Powlden deceased," revoking all previous wills, which he declares to be "absolutely void, frustrate, and of no effect."

II. The second Winthrop who settled in Ireland was JOSHUA, elder of the two sons of William Winthrop of London, above mentioned. He is recorded to have been baptized at St.

Michael's, Cornhill, July 10, 1559, and is stated to have married Anne, daughter of Vincent Norrington, mercer, of London. The date of this marriage has not yet been ascertained, but it must have taken place some time before 1603, in the autumn of which year Mrs. Joshua Winthrop "and her son" paid a visit to the third Adam Winthrop at Groton. The latter's diary gives some amusing particulars of his niece's irregular attendance at church, and "expenses in apparell"; it is added that when her aunt thought fit to indulge in some "friendly reproof" of these delinquencies, the younger lady "fell out in bitter woordes," and the next day "departed in displeasure." It has thus far been impossible to fix the precise period when her husband took up his residence in the South of Ireland, but it is believed to have been prior to 1610. All that is known with certainty is, that he died in the parish of Kilbrogan, Bandon, early in 1626, on the first of April of which year an administration of his estate was granted to his "sonne Joshua Winthrop, of Michells, gent." — one "Thomas Harrison, gent." joining in the bond. The Michells was, and still is, the name of an estate near Bandon; and this *Joshua Winthrop the younger*, who administered his father's estate in 1626, is presumed to have been the father of *Stephen Winthrop*, known to have been living at Bandon in 1658, and who will be described hereafter. It has thus far, however, been impossible to discover the dates of the marriage and death of the younger Joshua; and as the parish registers of Bandon do not antedate 1650, there is no record of his children, nor is there any mention of him in the books of the Corporation. The above-named "Thomas Harrison, gent." is thought to have been his brother-in-law; and a letter of Jonathan Winthrop, one of the sons of Stephen Winthrop of Bandon, contains a refer-

ence to "cousin Harrison," a supposed descendant of the aforesaid Thomas.

III. The third of the three Winthrops who settled in Ireland was ADAM, fourth of that name on the family pedigree, and younger son of William Winthrop of London. He is recorded to have been baptized at St. Michael's, Cornhill, Dec. 7, 1561, and to have married, by license, at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, Oct. 3, 1599, Jane, daughter of William Hilles of Holton Hall, Suffolk, and niece of the wife of his uncle Adam. The latter's diary contains repeated references to visits of this nephew and his wife to Groton. They were there as late as 1606, about which time he is understood to have joined his brother Joshua in a land-speculation in Ireland and to have established himself at Bandon prior to 1610. In the will of his uncle John, March, 1613, he is called "Adam Winthrop of the Michells," and in the same year his signature is found as witness to the will of one Richard French, of Desert, co. Cork. Nothing further is known about him until his death in 1634, but it is evident his affairs had not prospered, as, among the Winthrop Papers at Boston, U. S., is a letter, dated "Bandon-bridge in Ireland, March 5, 1637," from his widow, to Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts, stating that she was left very poorly off, and appealing to Governor Winthrop, as both her own and her husband's cousin, to send her some assistance. She does not name any members of her family, but says "our friends that are living here are in good health," sends her letter by "Mr. George Sheppard and his son," and desires an answer "either by Mr. Sheppard, or some other sufficient and trusty messenger." Letters of administration of the estate of Adam were granted to his widow Jane and daughter Elizabeth

under date of Oct. 16, 1634, when they had apparently ceased to reside at the Michells and are styled of Desertsergis, a neighboring parish. Besides this daughter Elizabeth, he is known to have had a son Adam, who died in infancy ; and a second son, JOHN, baptized at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, Aug. 21, 1603, of whom nothing more has been ascertained, but who is believed to have pre-deceased his father. It should be added that there is record of a marriage license in 1661 to " Jane Winthrop, widow," and " William Sherall of Bandon," but it would seem impossible that this could have been Adam's widow, Jane Hilles Winthrop, who would then, if living, have been at least eighty years old. It must have been the widow of some other member of the family, perhaps of the younger Joshua.

CHAPTER II.

STEPHEN WINTHROP OF BANDON AND HIS FAMILY.

WE now come to STEPHEN WINTHROP, known to have been living at Bandon in March, 1658, presumably a native of that place, and evidently not long married to a wife whose Christian name was Mary, but whose family name cannot be ascertained. By tradition he was a respectable man of moderate means, who, in view of his numerous family and the troubled state of Ireland, thought it prudent to have his sons taught trades. He died in 1685, on the 16th of September of which year administration of his estate was granted to his widow and son Thomas. He is recorded to have had the following children, viz.:

- i. Stephen, baptized 24 March, 1658; died young.
- ii. Mary, baptized 4 Oct., 1661; supposed to have died about 1722.
- iii. THOMAS, baptized 1664; in early life a tanner at Bandon; believed to have died s. p. about 1704.
- iv. JONATHAN, of whom hereafter.
- v. Elizabeth, baptized 23 July 1669; supposed to have died 1735.
- vi. STEPHEN, baptized 23 Sept., 1673; in early life a tanner at Bandon; stated to have married, in 1701, Constance Westcombe; supposed to have died s. p. 1741.
- vii. Joseph, baptized 1675; died young.
- viii. BENJAMIN, of whom hereafter.

JONATHAN WINTHROP, second surviving son of Stephen Winthrop of Bandon, was baptized 23 Dec., 1666; originally a cooper's apprentice; subsequently deputy-collector of the customs at Baltimore, co. Cork; and finally in some sort of business in London, where he is stated to have died in 1736. His wife's name has not been ascertained, but he probably married before 1695; as in June, 1698, he mentions having "one daughter, Elizabeth, living" and that he had "buried two sons, Stephen and Wayte." He is believed to have had subsequently two other daughters and a son, JONATHAN WINTHROP the younger, who married, Dec. 2, 1732, Anne, sister of Hugh Jameson of Charleville. Of this son nothing further has been ascertained, but his sisters, Elizabeth and Mary Winthrop, are stated to have been living at Stratford-le-Bow in 1740, while the third sister, Abigail, is believed to have married, first, in 1732, Richard Couch, mariner, and, secondly, in 1745, Robert Crofts of Ballythomas, gent.

Among the Winthrop Papers at Boston, U. S., are four letters of Jonathan Winthrop. The first of these is dated "Baltimore, 25 Oct., 1694," and addressed to "Captain Philip Maddox, at the Councill office, Whitehall." He applies to Captain Maddox as a kinsman and friend of his father and his "cousin Harrison," but a stranger to himself, and desires his interest with the Commissioners of the Revenue to obtain advancement, saying: "My father, who in his life-time took care to qualify me for ordinary business, bound me apprentice to a merchant; but the term of his life expiring before my time ended, and the late troubles immediately succeeding, I received but little benefit by my service, and therefore engaged myself in the business of the Revenue, in which I have continued ever since the reduction of this country; and tho' I hope I may say

without vanity that the Commissioners are now well sensible of my ability and care in the discharge of the trust committed to me, yet I find by experience that the greatest merits pass by unregarded without an interest to recommend them, which is the only thing I am unhappy for the want of." He incidentally mentions their common acquaintances "Col. Becher," "Mr. Henry Becher" and "Mr. Arthur Bush," and he particularly desires to know the address of "a gentleman of my name who lives in America" and whom he understands to be then in London. It is evident that this letter was handed by Captain Maddox to Fitz-John Winthrop, who was then in England as agent for the Connecticut Colony, and that Fitz-John took a copy of it, in order to make enquiries about the writer.

The next two letters are dated "Cork, Feb. 25, 1696," and "Baltimore, June 9, 1698," and addressed to Waite Winthrop, then one of the judges at Boston in New England, but whom the writer apparently confounds with his brother Fitz-John. In one of them he says: "When I reflect upon my unkind stars, and that fate which has placed me in a region wherein I am almost a stranger to my own name and family, I cannot but cast my thoughts into the American world, and am sensibly affected with the relation I stand in to some worthy persons there of the same original extraction." He intimates a willingness to emigrate to New England if he could find an opening; and he says of himself that he is "equally above the hardships of necessity and want, as below a state of affluence and plenty," and "I rather want the recommendation of friends to advance me in the world, than any other assistance they can give me."

The fourth letter is dated "London, Oct. 10, 1699," and addressed to Fitz-John Winthrop, then Governor of Connecticut. He alludes to previous letters which may have miscarried,

states that he has obtained Fitz-John's address from "cousin Maddox," that he is no longer in the Irish Revenue service, the collector for whom he was deputy having died; and he again broaches the possibility of obtaining some "business or employment" in New England, although he has "no occasion to be troublesome or expensive to any friend." He adds: "The ill fate of all our family in Europe (who, I think, are now quite extinct except myself and brothers) inclines me much to change climates, if I could have any tolerable prospect of mending my fortune by it. Therefore, if you please to favor me with a line of your opinion of this matter, directed to Mr. John Goddard, merchant, in this place, you will mightily oblige."

The letters from which the above passages are quoted are well written, and indicate a man of education and refinement, anxious to push himself in life. The brothers Fitz-John and Waite Winthrop, both born in New England, probably knew very little about the branch of their family in Ireland, and it is evident they were cautious about encouraging to come to America a distant kinsman with whom they had no personal acquaintance.

It may be added that Jonathan Winthrop was not the first of his name; his presumed great-great-grandfather, William Winthrop of London, having had a son Jonathan, who died in infancy in 1564.

BENJAMIN WINTHROP, brother of the preceding and youngest son of Stephen Winthrop of Bandon, is recorded to have been baptized Sept. 22, 1678, and early established himself in business in Cork, where he married, Jan. 21, 1702, Bridget, daughter of William Pembroke and sister of Thomas Pembroke,

Mayor of Cork. He died Nov. 30, 1729, aged 51, having had issue (besides other children, who died young) three daughters (Mary, wife of Rev. Richard Baldwin, of Bandon; Bridget, wife of William Skeys, merchant of Dublin; and Sarah, wife of Robert Wrixon, Mayor of Cork) and twin-sons, STEPHEN and WILLIAM, born May 28, 1705.

STEPHEN WINTHROP, the first of these twins, removed to England in 1725, became a merchant in London, and is the ancestor of the existing English family of Winthrop, whose genealogy is well known and does not need to be described here.

WILLIAM WINTHROP, second of the twin-sons of Benjamin Winthrop of Cork, also prospered and became a leading citizen and mayor of his native town. It does not enter into the purpose of this narrative to enumerate his descendants; but it is sufficient to state that while his male line ended with his great-grandson, STEPHEN PEMBROKE WINTHROP (who died in 1822, aged 19), in the female line he is represented by a number of families, among whom are the O'Donovans of Clan Cathal and the Bence-Jones's of Lisselan.

Among the Winthrop Papers at Boston, U. S., is a correspondence (1747-52) between John Still Winthrop of New London in Connecticut (then head of the elder branch of the American line), and the twin-brothers Stephen Winthrop of London and William Winthrop of Cork. The letters relate chiefly to the encouragement of trade with the New England colonies, but they contain references to the previous acquaintance of the brothers with John Still Winthrop and his father during their stay in London, together with allusions to the distant relationship between the two families and proffers of service and hospitality.

The precise degree of this relationship still remains unsolved. The bloody wars which devastated Ireland during the first half of the seventeenth century were unfavorable to the preservation of public and private records ; and while there can be no reasonable doubt that Stephen Winthrop of Bandon was grandson to one or other of the brothers Joshua and Adam Winthrop, heretofore described, yet all efforts to prove his actual parentage have been thus far unavailing. It remains to be seen whether fresh researches will prove more successful, but it is not unlikely that the discovery will one day be made when it is least expected.

NOTE. — It is curiously illustrative of the difficulties which sometimes beset genealogical research, even at its supposed fountain-head, that when, towards the close of the last century, Benjamin Winthrop, Governor of the Bank of England, and head of the English branch of the family, undertook to investigate the parentage of his great-grandfather, Stephen Winthrop of Bandon, he was gravely informed by Sir Isaac Heard of the Heralds' College, that the aforesaid Stephen, if not a son of Colonel Stephen Winthrop, M.P., was "probably a younger son of Governor John Winthrop the younger." If Sir Isaac, instead of hazarding this guess, had taken a little trouble, he would have found that the sons of Colonel Stephen Winthrop died in childhood, and that Governor John Winthrop the younger had but two sons, both eminent in New England history.

APPENDIX.

IT has not entered into the purpose of this sketch to dwell at any length upon the traditional origin of the Winthrop family, or to give a detailed description of its earliest ascertained generations prior to the settlement in Ireland. It may be convenient, however, to add a few remarks here.

1. The first use of this surname is found in a Roll of Court of the County of York, in the year 1200, where occurs the name "Robert de Winetorp." In a similar Roll of the County of Lincoln, in 1207, occurs the name "J. Winethorpe." Nothing is known, or is likely ever to be known, of either of these persons, but, more than two centuries later, was proved at York the will of one William Wynethorpe, of Wynethorpe, in Nottinghamshire, dated April 13, 1445. In it he directs that he be interred in Wynethorpe Church, provides for masses for his soul which he bequeaths to the Virgin Mary, and devises the remainder of his estate, subject to certain small bequests, to his wife, Elizabeth, and son Robert, said Elizabeth being named sole Executrix. It has been supposed that William Wynethorpe may have been the grandfather, and his son Robert the father, of the first Adam Winthorpe, known to have been living at Lavenham in Suffolk fifty-three years later. This, however, is thus far pure conjecture.

2. In a short account believed to have been prepared, about 1740, by John Winthrop, F.R.S., then head of the elder branch of the American family, but temporarily residing in England, it is said that after the Winthrops left Nottinghamshire and before they established themselves in Suffolk (i. e. prior to 1498), they “came to London and owned Marribone [Marylebone] park.” This has always seemed a very improbable statement, but no clew to it was afforded until, within the past year, it was ascertained that Colonel Stephen Winthrop, M.P., a younger son of Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts and an officer in the Parliamentary army, purchased, in 1652, a portion of Marylebone park and for a while resided there, disposing of it before his death in 1659. It would thus seem that John Winthrop, F.R.S., hearing a story that Marylebone park had once belonged to a Winthrop, hastily assumed this owner to have been a pre-Adamite Winthrop instead of, as now turns out, his great-uncle Stephen.

3. The same John Winthrop, F.R.S., caused to be compiled, in 1742, a pedigree, copies of which are in possession of several branches of the family, and which abounds in careless assertions. He begins by stating that the first Adam Winthrop was a Serjeant-at-law, for which there is no authority, and that he married “Jane, daughter and co-heir of Lord Burnell and widow of — Burton.” This is quite absurd, as the barony of Burnell had fallen into abeyance long before the first Adam Winthrop could, by any possibility, have been born, and the co-heirs of the last lord were three granddaughters, whose marriages are on record. If the lady in question was a Burnell by birth or marriage, she is more likely to have been related to a family of that name who became merchants in London not long after. It may fairly be assumed, however, that the third

Adam Winthrop knew who his grandmother was; and in a Latin pedigree prepared by him about 1600, he speaks of her as "*Joane, filia D: Burton,*" — the prefix "D:" being evidently an abbreviation of the Latin *Dominus*, often used in the sense of "Mr." He apparently did not know, or did not take the trouble to state, the Christian name of his grandmother's father, who may not improbably have been one of the Burtons known to have been living near Winthorpe in Nottinghamshire at that period.

4. In 1592 John Winthrop, then of Groton Manor, afterwards of Aghadowne, obtained from William Dethick, Garter King of Arms, a Confirmation of the armorial bearings "apperteyning to his name and ancestors," the shield being "Argent, three Chevrons Gules crénelés, over all a Lion rampant Sable armed and langued Azure," and the crest "a Hare proper running upon a mount Vert." This parchment, duly emblazoned, is still in existence, while the memoranda from which it was drawn up are on record in the Heralds' College in London. They establish that the Arms in question had been long used by the family, but there is no mention of when or to whom they were first granted. It happens, however, that in an elaborate pedigree illustrating the alliance of Winthrop and Forth in 1605, and signed "*scrutavi Ricardus St. George, anno domini 1 martii 1610,*" as well as in the Visitations of Suffolk in 1611 and 1613, the Winthrop shield is given with *two* chevrons only, — a discrepancy which is the more perplexing as the tomb of the third Adam Winthrop, at Groton (1626), has a shield with two chevrons, while seals on existing letters of his son and grandsons show that they used three. The latter number is undoubtedly correct, and the most competent heraldic authorities are of opinion that the mistake must have originated

in some carelessness or misunderstanding at the period of the first Visitation.

5. Lastly, it is as well to mention that not only has the name of Winthrop proved, in recent times, a somewhat favorite one with impostors, but it has occasionally been assumed, in apparent good faith, by persons who preferred it to their own. Many years ago the writer ventured to ask a respectable Irish mechanic how he came by it. After some hesitation, he replied that the surname he had brought with him from the Old Country was a difficult one for strangers to pronounce or spell, and that, having obtained temporary employment in the town of Winthrop, near Boston, it had occurred to him to adopt that name as familiar and euphonious. This was clearly an Irish Winthrop of his own creation; but should his descendants attain eminence in the country of his adoption, there can be little doubt that some enterprising genealogist will proceed successfully to deduce them from one or more of the persons described in the foregoing pages.

